(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An Expert Group has been set up to suggest a suitable methodology including the parameters to be used for identification of BPL families living in rural areas.

Schemes for Growth and Development

647. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the new schemes to accelerate growth and development of different regions of the country; and

(b) the suggestions received and strategy to act upon those suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) The Government of India has introduced many schemes in the recent past for accelerating growth and development of different regions of the country. Some of such schemes are: National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Bharat Nirman launched as a time bound business plan for rural infrastructure, Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), etc. All these schemes are being reviewed periodically to give greater focus on growth and development in different regions of the country. Apart from these schemes, the scheme specifically designed to redress regional imbalances that exist within States is the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF).

As per Presidential address, the priority of the new Government would be stepping up of economic growth in agriculture, manufacturing and services, introduction of new flagship programmes for food security and skill development, creation and modernization of infrastructure and capacity addition in key sectors, and PPP projects in different areas etc.

Special Package for Bihar

†648.SHRI ALI ANWAR ANSARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at the time of division of Bihar an assurance was given that a special economic package would be given for the development of Bihar;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Bihar Legislative Assembly had unanimously demanded special status for Bihar; and

(c) if so, whether this special economic package would be given for the development of Bihar and special status would be given to it by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) At the time of division, the State Government of Bihar had requested for a special economic package. Accordingly, after wide ranging consultations, the Special Plan for Bihar was initiated in 2003-04.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) A unanimous Resolution was passed in the Bihar State Legislative Assembly on 4.4.2006 to give special status to Bihar.

(c) Under the Special Plan for Bihar, assistance of Rs. 1000 crore per annum is already being provided on 100% grant and an amount of Rs. 4636.82 crore has been released so far. Regarding Special Category Status, proposal has been received from the State Government and Government of India is seized of the matter.

Identification of Key Areas

649. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister has set up an agenda for various Ministries and has asked them to identify 54 key areas including time bound plan for internal security and has directed all departments to submit action plan that would be closely monitored by newly set up Delivery Monitoring Unit;

(b) whether 54 primary areas have been identified on the basis of the Presidential address;

(c) if so, the details of 54 priority areas and whether any action plan has been prepared; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by what time they are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (d) The agenda for the Government has been spelt out in the Address by the President of India to Parliament on 4.6.2009 and Prime Minister has addressed a letter to all Union Cabinet Ministers and Ministers of State (Independent Charge) on 6.6.2009 regarding follow up on the President's Address and other matters.

BPL persons

650. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons Below Poverty Line (BPL) the number brought out of BPL and those came in year-wise;

(b) whether any time bound programme has been worked out to bring people out of BPL completely;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) The Planning Commission estimates the percentage and number of persons living below poverty line at national and state level, separately in rural and urban areas from the large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years. As per the latest estimates, the numbers of persons living below poverty line (BPL) for the year 2004-05 is estimated to be 301.7 million accounting for 27.5%